

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are pending in this application. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wong (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,690), hereafter "Wong." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons:

Applicants initially note that in the Office Action, the Office only roughly cites some overly long and random portions of the Wong disclosure to support the rejection. For example, the Office cites column 4, lines 7-52 (totally 45 lines) of Wong in the rejection of all 19 pending claims of the current invention. Applicants do not understand which part of the disclosure is used to anticipate which feature of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request the Office specify its grounds for rejection.

In addition, the citations provided by the Office do not support its assertions. For example, the Office cites column 15, lines 30-49 of Wong to support its rejection (Office Action at page 3), but column 15, lines 30-49 of Wong relates to conveyance of installation instructions which by no means reads on the claimed invention. Also the Office cites column 13, lines 45-59 to support the assertion that Wong discloses component information including the cost of alternative component, the delivery lag time to manufacturer, etc. (Office Action at page 3).

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However, column 13, lines 45-59 of Wong relates to the description of a “shopping basket” including item quoted, manufacturer part number, unit price, quantity, and extended price. (See col. 13, lines 55-57.) These are all ordinary on-line shopping cart descriptions and do not relate to component information including the cost of alternative component and the delivery lag time to manufacturer. Applicants respectfully request the Office provide specific, meaningful citations of prior art to facilitate smooth communications and mutual understandings, especially as Applicants have already went through a round of prosecution and filed a RCE.

With respect to independent claims 1, 9 and 17, Applicants respectfully submit that Wong fails to teach, *inter alia*, “determining component information ... the component information including component availability in real-time by querying a manufacturer system and, in response to a component being unavailable at the manufacturer, querying at least one supplier system in real time[.]” as recited in claim 1 and claimed similarly in claims 9 and 17. Specifically, Wong teaches “a computer model based on a single integrated database management system (DBMS)[.]” (Abstract). The DBMS in Wong “[includes] files belonging to different business domains, e.g., a products domain, a payments domain, a financial performance domain and a personnel domain.” (Col. 12, lines 57-59). The system of Wong, however, does not determine component information and does not query a manufacturing system or a supplier system. Rather, Wong requires a user to specify search parameters for products and to search the database for existing products matching the specified parameters. (See col. 13, lines 23-26.) That is, Wong only provides a database, and a user of the Wong system searches the database himself. The Wong system (or a user of the Wong system) cannot go beyond the database to query a manufacturer system, or, in response to a component being unavailable at the manufacturer, to

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query at least one supplier system in real time. In addition, a search of the Wong database is limited to the existing products. Wong does not disclose determining component information including component availability.

In addition, Wong does not disclose, *inter alia*, "offering the customer at least one order option in real time based on a result of the determination[.]" as recited in claim 1 and claimed similarly in claims 9 and 17. In Wong, "[o]nce all of the requested information has been provided, the user then chooses from among possible actions, including making changes to the quote, going back to the Products List, ..." (Col. 14, lines 29-32). That is, Wong does not offer a customer an order option. Rather, a customer of Wong searches the database and makes the decision himself based only on the information of the existing products in the database. In Wong, there is no determination of component information and no offer of options based on such a determination.

Furthermore, Wong does not disclose, *inter alia*, "real time" determination of components information. In Wong, all the information is in the database. Therefore, until the database is updated, a customer cannot obtain updated information. That is, a search of the product list in Wong is not "real time."

In view of the foregoing, Wong does not anticipate the current invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims listed above. In addition, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these

rejections individually, but reserve the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw its rejection.

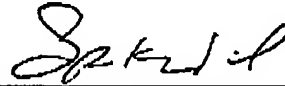
IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Date:

9/23/05

Respectfully submitted,



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